

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)	
)	
of the Educator Certificate of)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
)	(BREACH OF CONTRACT)
Darci M. Ames)	
)	
Certificate 208190)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on Wednesday, May 11, 2005. On March 18, 2005, the Office of Teacher Certification served Darci M. Ames a notice of her right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate. The notice was served by a Deputy Sheriff from the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. Ms. Ames did not request a hearing within the time frame specified in the notice letter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Ames' certificate for one year.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Ames holds a valid certificate and has one year of teaching experience. Ms. Ames signed a contract with the Greenville County School District for the 2004-2005 school year on July 15, 2004. Ms. Ames was assigned as a third grade teacher at Welcome Elementary School. On December 16, 2004, Ms. Ames notified her Principal that her last day of employment would be December 22, 2004. On January 11, 2005, the District notified Ms. Ames that her resignation was not in compliance with District policy. On January 25, 2005, the District Board of Trustees voted to request suspension of Ms. Ames' certificate as a result of her breach of contract.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). Breach of contract is deemed to be unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is sufficient evidence supporting its conclusion that Ms. Ames breached her contract with Greenville County School District, warranting the suspension of Ms. Ames' certificate 208190 for a period of one year, from May 11, 2005, through May 10, 2006. Should Ms. Ames wish to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
May 11, 2005